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Report

ON THE

Health of Dunstable

for the year 1951

BY

H. A. A. PARGETER, M.A., M.B., D.P.H.


Medical Officer of Health

Together with the Report of

A. BISHOP, Cert. R.S.I.

Senior Sanitary Inspector.





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REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR 1951

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
MUNICIPAL OFFICES,
DUNSTABLE.

November, 1952.

*To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the
Borough of Dunstable.*

MR. MAYOR, MRS. WESTRAY AND GENTLEMEN,

The Registrar-General's Statistics in this Report show a fall in the population of the Borough. The figure in 1951 was 17,070 compared with 17,260 in 1950. Also during the year 1951, there was a lower birth rate and a higher death rate.

The incidence of infectious diseases needs little comment. Measles and whooping cough are still the most prevalent infectious diseases of childhood. Five cases of food poisoning were notified, and one case of poliomyelitis.

The sewage disposal works of the Borough still remain very unsatisfactory and their reconstruction is most urgent.

In conclusion I wish to express to the Town Clerk and the Sanitary Inspectors my thanks for the help they have always given in my work.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

H. A. A. PARGETER,

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

- (a) *Medical Officer of Health* (part-time).
H. A. A. Pargeter, M.A., M.B., D.P.H.
- (b) *Senior Sanitary Inspector*.
A. Bishop. Certificate Royal Sanitary Institute as
Sanitary Inspector.
Certificate Royal Sanitary Institute as
Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.
- (c) *Additional Sanitary Inspectors*.
H. Stew. Certificate Royal Sanitary Institute as
Sanitary Inspector.
Certificate Royal Sanitary Institute as
Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.
- (d) D. P. J. Byrne. Certificate Royal Sanitary Institute as
Sanitary Inspector.
Certificate Royal Sanitary Institute as
Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.
- (e) *Chief Clerk/Shorthand Typist*.
Mrs. D. F. Wordsworth.
- (f) *Junior Clerk*.
Miss R. A. Fensome.

SECTION A :—

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Vital Statistics.

Area of Borough, 2,028 acres.			
Population as estimated by Registrar-General	...		17,070
Number of inhabited houses according to Rate			
Book as at 31st December, 1951	...	...	5,093
Rateable Value as at 31st December, 1951	...		£67,842
Sum produced by a penny rate taken at 31st March, 1951			£346
Number of new houses erected :			
(a) Council : Permanent	...	...	101
(b) Private Enterprise	...	...	11

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1951.

The following tables give extracts from the Vital Statistics for the year 1951 as furnished by the Registrar-General :—

	<i>Total</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	
Live Births	... 251	124	127	} Birth rate per 1,000 of population, 14.7.
Legitimate	... 235	118	117	
Illegitimate	... 16	6	10	
Still Births	... 9	4	5	} Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births, 34.6.
Legitimate	... 8	4	4	
Illegitimate	... 1	—	1	
Deaths	... 210	120	90	} Death rate per 1,000 of population, 12.3.

There were no deaths from diseases or accidents of pregnancy and childbirth.

In order that the birth and death rates may be more properly compared with those of other districts, it is necessary for them to be multiplied by comparability factors. These factors are supplied by the Registrar-General.

Thus the adjusted rates for Dunstable are as follows :—

Birth Rate, 14.7, comparability factor, 0.94, adjusted birth rate, 13.8.

Death Rate, 12.3, comparability factor, 1.06, adjusted death rate, 13.0.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age :—

Total	7.	Rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	27.9
Legitimate	7.	Rate per 1,000 legitimate live births			9.8
Illegitimate	—.	Rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births			—
Deaths from Measles (all ages)			...	...	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)			...	...	—
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)			...	...	—
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)			...	...	28

Population.

The population figures as supplied by the Registrar-General since 1933, when the Borough was extended to its present area, are as follows :—

1933 (mid-year)	...	...	...	...	10,293
1934	„	...	...	...	10,520
1935	„	...	...	...	11,330
1936	„	...	...	...	12,800
1937	„	...	...	...	13,450
1938	„	...	...	...	13,760
1939	„	...	...	...	14,720
1940	„	...	...	...	15,730
1941	„	...	...	...	18,040
1942	„	...	...	...	17,130
1943	„	...	...	...	16,450
1944	„	...	...	...	16,160
1945	„	...	...	...	15,680
1946	„	...	...	...	16,010
1947	„	...	...	...	16,490
1948	„	...	...	...	16,990
1949	„	...	...	...	17,110
1950	„	...	...	...	17,260
1951	„	...	...	...	17,070

The natural increase in the population or difference between the birth and death rates are as follows :—

1942	...	...	...	...	...	6.1
1943	...	...	...	...	...	7.2
1944	...	...	...	...	...	8.4
1945	...	...	...	...	...	8.2
1946	...	...	...	...	...	9.3
1947	...	...	...	...	...	15.9
1948	...	...	...	...	...	11.1
1949	...	...	...	...	...	5.5
1950	...	...	...	...	...	5.7
1951	...	...	...	...	...	2.4

Causes of Death.

The following table shows causes of death as given in the Registrar-General's statistics :—

<i>Causes of Death</i>							<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
All causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	120	90
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	...	3	2
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
8.	Measles	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	...	...	8	1
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	...	—	4
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	...	...	7	7
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	...	19	14
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	...	17	7
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	4	—
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	17	15
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	...	5	2
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	6	4
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	6	2
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	9	8
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	...	4	14
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	3	2
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	...	...	—	1

Infant Mortality.

The following table shows Infantile Mortality from stated causes in weeks and months under one year of age.

	<i>Weeks</i>				<i>Total under one month</i>	<i>Months</i>				<i>Total under one year</i>
	0-	1-	2-	3-		1-	3-	6-	9-	
Congenital deformities	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Accidental death ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Birth injury ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	3
TOTALS ...	2	1	—	—	3	3	1	—	—	7

INFANT MORTALITY.

	<i>Total Live Births</i>	<i>Infantile Mortality Rate-Dunstable</i>	<i>Infantile Mortality Rate-England and Wales</i>
1940 ...	244	86	55
1941 ...	274	55	59
1942 ...	274	55	49
1943 ...	275	44	49
1944 ...	320	36	46
1945 ...	294	30	46
1946 ...	305	56	43
1947 ...	407	7	41
1948 ...	317	22	34
1949 ...	279	43	32
1950 ...	284	11	30
1951 ...	251	28	30

Maternal Mortality.

There were no maternal deaths during 1951.

Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Death-rates and Case-rates for Certain Infectious Diseases in the Year 1951.

(Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns).

Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population.

	<i>Borough of Dunstable</i>	<i>England and Wales</i>	<i>126 C.B.'s and Great Towns including London</i>	<i>148 Smaller Towns (Resident Pop. 25,000 —50,000 at 1931 Census)</i>	<i>London Admin. County</i>
Births					
Live	14.7	15.5	17.3	16.7	17.8
Still	0.53	0.36	0.45	0.38	0.37
Deaths					
All causes ...	13.0	12.5	13.4	12.5	13.1
Typhoid & Paratyphoid Fevers	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Diphtheria ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis ...	0.35	0.31	0.37	0.31	0.38
Influenza ...	0.59	0.38	0.36	0.38	0.23
Smallpox ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis ...	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00
Pneumonia ...	0.47	0.61	0.65	0.63	0.61
Notifications					
Typhoid Fever ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Paratyphoid Fever	0.00	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.01
Meningococcal Infection ...	0.00	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.03
Scarlet Fever ...	0.35	1.11	1.20	1.20	1.10
Whooping Cough	4.98	3.87	3.62	4.00	3.11
Diphtheria ...	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.01
Erysipelas ...	0.00	0.14	0.15	0.12	0.15
Smallpox ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Measles ...	7.26	14.07	13.93	14.82	14.64
Pneumonia ...	0.47	0.99	1.04	0.96	0.72
Acute Poliomyelitis Paralytic ...	0.00	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.02
Acute Poliomyelitis Non-Paralytic	0.06	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.02
Food Poisoning ...	0.29	0.13	0.15	0.08	0.23

Rates per 1,000 Live Births.

Deaths					
All causes under 1 year of age ...	27.9	29.6(a)	33.9	27.6	26.4
Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age	0.00	1.4	1.6	1.0	0.7

(a) Per 1,000 related births.

Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still).

(a) Notifications Puerperal Fever & Puerperal Pyrexia	7.69	10.66	13.77	8.08	14.90
(b) Maternal Mortality					
Abortion with sepsis (651) ...	0.00	0.09	} Not available		
Other abortion (650, 652) ...	0.00	0.05			
Complication of pregnancy and delivery ...	0.00	0.37			
Sepsis of childbirth & the puerperium	0.00	0.10			
Other complications of the puerperium	0.00	0.18			
TOTAL ...	0.00	0.79			

A dash (—) signifies that there were no deaths or notifications.

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS FOR 1941—1951.

Year	Estima- ted Popula- tion	Live Births		Still-Births		Deaths		Infant Deaths				Maternal Deaths			
		No.	Rate per 1,000 estimated popula- tion	No.	Rate per 1,000 total births	No.	Rate per 1,000 estimated popula- tion	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks to 12 months	Total	Rate per 1,000 live births	Sepsis	Other	Total	Rate per 1,000 total births
1941	18,040	274	15.2	13	45.3	181	10.0	11	4	15	55	—	—	—	—
1942	17,130	274	16.0	10	35.2	169	9.9	8	7	15	55	—	—	—	—
1943	16,450	275	16.7	3	10.9	156	9.5	6	6	12	44	1	—	1	3.6
1944	16,160	320	19.8	8	24.0	185	11.4	8	4	12	36	—	1	1	3.1
1945	15,680	294	18.7	13	42.3	164	10.5	8	1	9	30	—	—	—	—
1946	16,010	305	19.0	8	25.6	156	9.7	12	5	17	56	—	—	—	—
1947	16,490	407	24.7	5	11.9	145	8.8	1	2	3	7	—	—	—	—
1948	16,990	317	18.7	8	24.6	130	7.6	4	3	7	22	—	—	—	—
1949	17,110	279	16.3	8	27.9	185	10.8	5	7	12	43	—	2	2	6.9
1950	17,260	284	15.5	4	13.9	160	9.8	2	1	3	11	—	—	—	—
1951	17,070	251	13.8	9	34.6	210	13.0	3	4	7	28	—	—	—	—

SECTION F—

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER,
INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Infectious Diseases, other than Tuberculosis.

General Statistics. The following table shows the number of cases of Infectious diseases notified during 1951 together with the number admitted to hospital, and the deaths from these diseases :—

<i>Diseases</i>	<i>Total Cases Notified</i>	<i>Cases Admitted to Hospital</i>	<i>Total Deaths Registered</i>
Scarlet Fever	6	3	—
Whooping Cough	85	5	—
Acute Poliomyelitis :			
Paralytic	—	—	—
Non-paralytic	1	—	—
Measles (excluding rubella)	124	3	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Ac. Pneumonia	8	1	8
Dysentery	—	—	—
Smallpox	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis :			
Infective	—	—	—
Post-Infectious	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fever ...	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection ...	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	5	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	1	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	—	—	—
Infective Hepatitis	1	—	—

The following table gives an analysis of the more important cases of Infectious Disease notified, according to age :—

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Under 1 year</i>	<i>1 to 3</i>	<i>3 to 5</i>	<i>5 to 10</i>	<i>10 to 15</i>	<i>15 to 25</i>	<i>25 to 45</i>	<i>45 to 65</i>	<i>65 and over</i>	<i>Total</i>
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	6
Ac. Poliomyelitis :										
Non-paralytic	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Food Poisoning	—	—	2	1	—	—	1	1	—	5

No cases of Smallpox were notified during the year.

Scarlet Fever.

<i>Year</i>	<i>No. of Cases</i>	<i>Case-rate per 1,000</i>	<i>Case-rate for England and Wales</i>
1951	6	0.35	1.11

The following table shows the incidence for the last ten years :—

1942	...	59	1947	...	19
1943	...	65	1948	...	9
1944	...	40	1949	...	19
1945	...	32	1950	...	27
1946	...	31	1951	...	6

Diphtheria :—The following table shows the number of cases of Diphtheria which have occurred during the last ten years :—

1942	...	6	1947	...	2
1943	...	9	1948	...	2
1944	...	2	1949	...	0
1945	...	0	1950	...	0
1946	...	2	1951	...	0

There have been no deaths from the disease since the year 1937.

Cancer.

The following table shows the prevalence of Cancer deaths during the last 10 years :—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000</i>
1942	17	13	30	1.75
1943	11	12	23	1.4
1944	13	15	28	1.73
1945	16	15	31	1.97
1946	16	17	33	2.06
1947	14	13	27	1.64
1948	15	10	25	1.47
1949	13	16	29	1.69
1950	16	12	28	1.62
1951	15	13	28	1.64

Tuberculosis.

New cases and mortality during 1951 :—

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
5-	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10-	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15-	1	3	—	2	—	—	—	—
20-	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
25-	3	6	—	1	—	2	—	—
35-	5	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
45-	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55-	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
65 and over ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	19	11	2	4	3	2	1	—

DEATH RATES PER 1,000 FROM TUBERCULOSIS.

Pulmonary 0.29

Non-pulmonary 0.06

BOROUGH OF DUNSTABLE.

REPORT

of the

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1951.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
MUNICIPAL OFFICES,
DUNSTABLE.

27th September, 1952.

*To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the
Borough of Dunstable.*

MR. MAYOR, MRS. WESTRAY AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit for your consideration my Report for the year 1951 as Senior Sanitary Inspector, Inspector of Meat and Other Foods and Inspector under the Housing and Factory Acts.

The Report deals with the action taken in relation to the various duties which fall to the lot of the Sanitary Inspector including those in connection with the collection and disposal of house and trade refuse.

No major steps have as yet been taken to deal with the unsatisfactory conditions prevailing at the Sewage Farm.

There are welcome indications that it will soon be possible to deal with at least some of the unfit houses by way of demolition.

There is still a steady improvement in the standard of food premises but there is need for continued effort to be directed towards educating the individual food handler in the need for a higher code of personal conduct in connection with this matter.

My thanks are extended to you for continued support, to the Medical Officer of Health for the help and guidance which he has always given to me and for the assistance of the members of the staff.

Yours obediently,

A. BISHOP,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

SECTION C :—

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. Water Supply.

There is no change in the general conditions relating to water supply. The larger quantity is derived from wells within the Borough owned by the National Gas Board and this is augmented from the Luton Water Company Undertaking.

The following information is provided to meet the requirements of the Ministry of Health :—

(a) *Quantity and Quality.*

There was no shortage in 1951. Apart from a few slight deviations as will be seen from the reports given below the analyses show a very high standard of purity both from a bacteriological and chemical standpoint.

(b) *New Works.*

Apart from the extensions to mains required as a result of building development there have been no works of a major character.

(c) *Risk of Contamination.*

The undertakers are taking steps to remove a number of cultivated allotments away from the immediate proximity of the wells to prevent risk of contamination. Apart from this there is very little risk and every possible step is taken in so far as employees are concerned to ensure that they are free from infection before working in the Wells. All water is treated by chlorination.

(d) *Number of Dwelling Houses supplied.*

There is only a very small number of houses without a separate piped supply and these are in every case in property ripe for demolition under the Housing Act when the opportunity arises.

Results of the Examination of Water Samples.

I am indebted to the Resident Manager of the Water Undertaking for the reports on the results of the regular and frequent examination of samples of water submitted for chemical and bacteriological examination, details of which are given below.

It is suggested that the cause of some of the unsatisfactory results might have been due to lack of care in the taking of samples and steps have been taken to prevent this.

Bacteriological Samples.

Sixty-three samples taken in the Borough were submitted for examination four of which, from the raw supply, were reported on in

conjunction with chemical samples. Sixty samples were found to be entirely satisfactory, a typical laboratory report being as follows :—

“ This is a very satisfactory sample. It is clear and bright in appearance and of the highest standard of bacterial purity consistent with a wholesome water supply for drinking and domestic purposes.”

Of the others one dated 6th March, 1951, and taken from the Luton supply where it enters the Borough was reported on as follows :—

“ This sample is clear and bright in appearance and of satisfactory bacterial purity consistent with a wholesome condition and suitability for drinking and domestic purposes inasmuch as organisms of the coli-aerogenes group are absent from 100 m.l.

The water carries, however, a very appreciable though not excessive number of bacteria compared with the quality normally recorded at this sampling point. This abnormality merits some investigation.”

A repeat sample dated 13th March, 1951, was reported as very satisfactory.

Another sample dated 16th October, 1951, taken from the supply at the Waterworks tap was reported on in conjunction with a chemical sample as follows :—

“ It just fails to comply with the highest standard of bacterial purity since organisms of the coli-aerogenes group are present in minimal number but, in the absence of organisms of excremental type, this slight deficiency does not constitute direct evidence of dangerous contamination. Subject to an efficient system of precautionary chlorination the water is considered pure and wholesome in character and suitable for public supply purposes.”

A repeat sample from the same source dated 30th October, 1951, was reported as being of the highest standard of bacterial purity.

The remaining sample dated 18th December, 1951, was reported on as follows :—

“ This sample is clear and bright in appearance and of satisfactory bacterial purity inasmuch as organisms of the coli-aerogenes group are absent in 100 m.l. The water is considered wholesome in character and suitable for public supply but the numbers of colonies are greater than normally recorded. The numbers are not excessive but they are sufficiently great to merit investigation.”

It was the last sample taken during the year and one taken early in 1952 showed a return to a satisfactory condition.

Chemical Samples.

Four samples were submitted all taken from the raw supply at the Waterworks.

Three samples dated 13/3/1951, 3/7/1951 and 21/11/1951 were reported on as of the highest standard of organic and bacterial purity, e.g. :—

“ This sample is clear and bright in appearance, neutral in re-action and free from iron and other metals. The water is hard in character but not to an excessive degree and it contains no excess of salinity or mineral constituents in solution. It is of the highest standard of organic and bacterial purity. These results are very satisfactory for the raw supply and consistent in a pure and wholesome water supply for public supply purposes.”

The other sample dated 16th October, 1951, was reported on as follows :—

“ This sample is clear and bright in appearance, neutral in re-action and free from iron and other metals. The water is hard in character but not to an excessive degree and it contains no excess of salinity or mineral constituents in solution and it is of the highest standard of organic purity. It just fails to comply with the highest standard of bacterial purity since organisms of the coli-aerogenes group are present in minimal number but in the absence of organisms of excremental type, this slight deficiency does not constitute direct evidence of dangerous contamination. Subject to an efficient system of precautionary chlorination the water is considered pure and wholesome in character and suitable for public supply purposes.

The sample has a very faint odour of oil ; this feature might relate to a defect in the pumping machinery requiring correction.”

2. Drainage and Sewerage.

(a) Sewage Disposal.

It is regretted that the unsatisfactory conditions at the Sewage Farm still exist. Although every possible effort has been made to alleviate the position nothing of any real consequence can result until the proposed reconstruction of the works, now the subject of consideration and report by Consulting Engineers, becomes effective.

It is also a matter for regret that the negotiations relating to the disposal of storm water from the Chiltern Road, Beecroft and Houghton Road areas have not come to fruition and it is hoped that the alternative proposals for disposal into the Ouzel Brook can be put into operation quickly.

(b) New Sewers and Sewerage.

Generally speaking the condition of the soil sewers is satisfactory. From time to time small subsidiary units are found to be defective and require to be repaired or re-laid as matters of normal maintenance.

The new storm water sewer in Chiltern Road as mentioned in the last Report has been completed. A storm water sewer with necessary road gullies has been constructed in the Church Street/Priory Road area.

All new houses being erected in the Borough are drained to sewers which are being extended and constructed to meet the need.

(c) *Closet Accommodation.*

With few exceptions premises within the Borough are provided with water closet accommodation. Those which have no flushing apparatus are for the most part in property which is regarded as unfit for human habitation.

There are forty premises in the Borough which drain to cesspools. Unfortunately development in the Tring Road area where most of them are situated seems at present to be a very remote possibility.

3. Rivers and Streams.

There are no rivers or streams in the Borough.

4. Public Cleansing.

(a) *Refuse Collection and Disposal.*

Refuse is still being deposited in the old chalk pit on California Hill. Negotiations were satisfactorily completed for a short lease for an additional pit on the edge of the existing tip. This has now been brought into use and will provide tipping space for possibly two years or so.

On the whole it has been possible to keep the tip face well covered throughout the year and there has been no nuisance.

On one occasion a serious fire was overcome by the use of a bulldozer.

Although there have been difficulties in maintaining a regular service of employees the collection has been maintained at a reasonably good level but not always on the weekly basis.

A new collecting vehicle was ordered late in the year and has now been delivered and put into use.

(b) *Salvage.*

There has been no change in the procedure for the collection of salvage, waste paper, rags, kitchen waste, etc.

A further 500 household containers were distributed in the Great Northern Road and Northfields areas in 1951. A further number has since been delivered with the result that there are now 1,500 bins in use. The number of street bins has been reduced to 150, and this number will be further reduced in the present year.

Kitchen waste collected during 1951 amounted to 345 tons which is an increase of approximately 30 tons over the previous year and this figure is likely to be exceeded in the present year.

Collection of waste paper at 237 tons exceeded the 1950 figure by eight tons. The Corporation entered the Waste Paper Recovery

Competition organised over the whole of 1951 and were awarded one of the £50 prizes. The amount was distributed by His Worship the Mayor amongst local voluntary organisations.

Reference to the table below will show the increased revenue which was received principally from the exceptionally high prices paid by the Mills for paper.

It is well-known that the position has changed to the extent that prices paid are now less than half those prevailing early in this year. Apart from the reduced price the quantity that can be sent to the Mills is restricted so that the revenue in respect of the present year must show a very big reduction.

The following table shows the amount and value of salvage collected during 1951 and a comparison with 1950 :—

<i>Material</i>	<i>Year 1950</i>				<i>Year 1951</i>			
	<i>tons cwts. qrs. lbs.</i>				<i>tons cwts. qrs. lbs.</i>			
Paper	229	5	—	—	237	9	3	21
Heavy Iron	9	7	2	—	13	13	—	—
Rags	4	9	—	3½	8	7	—	2
Bones	—	2	2	—	—	2	2	—
Brass, lead, aluminium, copper	—	12	2	17	—	14	2	21
Bottles and jars	nil				nil			
Tins	nil				3	13	2	—
Waste Food	314	12	1	—	345	—	—	—
VALUE	£2,343 0 3				£5,011 19 3			

(c) *Cleansing of Cesspools.*

This is not a serious problem as there are only twenty-four cesspools in the Borough which take the drainage of 40 premises.

There is an arrangement whereby the work of emptying cesspools is carried out by the Luton Rural District Council as they have modern plant in regular use in this service.

5. **Sanitary Inspection of the Area.**

The following schedules give details and numbers of inspections made and the results of the notices served :—

	1951
Inspections of premises where nuisances were found	348
Visits to property under notice or re work in progress	527
Visits re drainage of existing buildings	188
Inspection of sanitary accommodation at :—	
Public Conveniences	135
Dairies	14
Factories and workplaces	51
Bakehouses	5
Schools	4
Shops and Offices	16
Hotels and Restaurants	32
Cinema and Public houses	22

	1951
Visits re collection and disposal of refuse and salvage	462
Visits re keeping of animals and accumulations of refuse	5
Inspection of Factories : with mechanical power	61
without do.	27
Inspection of Hairdressing premises	4
Visits re smoke nuisances	4
Visits re tents, vans and sheds	6
Visits re rats and mice	331
Visits re other vermin	62
Visits re disinfection and infectious disease inquiries	55
Visits re applications for new houses	122
Visits re unfit houses	18
Visits re manufacture, preparation and storage of food at :—	
Slaughterhouses	261
Shops	102
Dairies and milk shops	66
Ice-cream premises	78
Hotel, Canteen and restaurant kitchens	65
Chip potato and fish friers	8
Markets (including Fairs)	87
Bakehouses	36
Butchers	28
Greengrocers	26
Biscuit manufactory	4
Other food manufacturing premises	3
Unsound food	189
Food poisoning	14
Visits to Swimming Pools	7
Miscellaneous (including Civil Defence)	228

								1951
Number of Statutory Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Number of Informal Notices given	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	213
" " " " complied	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	162

SCHEDULE OF WORK DONE.

	1951
(a) Structural Defects.	
Rooftops repaired and made weatherproof	36
Eaves gutters repaired or renewed	16
Chimneys repointed, etc., and pots renewed	4
Flashings renewed	4
R.W. pipes refixed, repaired or renewed	14
Windows and frames repaired or renewed	23
Windows made to open	18
Doors and frames repaired or renewed	6
Main walls repointed or cement rendered	3
Floors repaired or relaid	19
Ceilings replastered	24
Walls replastered or matchboarding renewed	34
Dampness eradicated in walls and ceilings	39
Sashcords renewed	16
Staircases repaired and/or handrails provided	4
Firegrates repaired or renewed	10
Smoking flues remedied	9
Rooms and staircases redecorated	34
Washing coppers repaired or renewed	3
Miscellaneous repairs	23
(b) Foul Conditions.	
Obstructed drains cleared	69
Obstructed sewers referred to Borough Surveyor	26
Dirty tenants	6

	1951
(c) Drainage, Paving and Water Supplies.	
Bathrooms provided	6
Drains relaid or repaired	23
W.C. pans renewed	24
Flushing cisterns repaired or renewed	25
Cold water supply tanks repaired or renewed	3
W.C. structures repaired, cleansed or rebuilt	10
Defective joint between flush pipe and W.C. pan renewed	13
W.C.'s provided with water supply and/or water pipes repaired	31
Gully drains repaired or dishing renewed	9
W.C. seats repaired or renewed	21
Yard paving relaid or provided	8
Sink and bath wastepipes repaired or renewed	11
Manholes and/or covers repaired or renewed	8
Additional sinks provided or renewed	5
Lavatory basins provided	1
(d) Sanitary Accommodation at Inns, Restaurants, Offices, etc.	
Additional sanitary accommodation provided	8
Sanitary accommodation cleansed or improved	7
(e) Collection of Refuse and Salvage.	
Offensive accumulations removed	11
New dustbins provided	201
(f) Keeping of Animals.	
Accumulations of manure removed	1
Discontinued after informal action	1
(g) Verminous Conditions.	
Rooms disinfested	7
Lorry load of verminous bedding and clothing destroyed	2
(h) Factories, including Bakehouses.	
Additional sanitary accommodation provided	3
Intervening ventilated space provided	1
Improved lighting provided in sanitary accommodation	5
Existing sanitary accommodation improved	5
Washing facilities provided	1
Existing sanitary accommodation cleansed	6
Premises cleansed and painted	4
Premises made safe	1
Smoke nuisances abated	1
Bakehouse cleansed and redecorated	4
(i) Dairies and Milkshops.	
Unsatisfactory Dairy replaced by new	1
Dairy cleansed and redecorated	1
W.C. accommodation cleansed and repaired	1
Drains cleansed	2
(j) Restaurant, Hotel and Canteen Kitchens.	
Cleansed	5
Additional sanitary accommodation provided	2
Sanitary accommodation improved	2
New Food store and kitchen provided	3
Water supply improved	1
Kitchens improved	3
(k) Food Premises.	
Rooms cleansed and decorated	2
Rooms closed	1
New sink and washing facilities provided	8
(l) Shops.	
Cleansed	2
Washing facilities provided	3
Additional sanitary accommodation provided	3
Drains relaid	2
Hot water supplied	4
(m) Tents, Vans and Sheds.	
Vans removed	1

Offensive Trades :—Section 107 Public Health Act, 1936.

Three premises in which rags are involved are the only offensive trades registered in the Borough. In two of these cases the amount involved is very small.

An Order has now been made by the Under Secretary of State bringing Section 86 of the Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1907, into operation within the Borough.

Factories Act, 1907.

Information as to the number of inspections made, notices served and work carried out under the provisions of the above Act are set out below :—

(1) INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH.

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Number on Register</i>	<i>Number of</i>		
		<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Written Notices</i>	<i>Occupiers Prosecuted</i>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	10	27	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	95	61	4	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	5	1	—
TOTAL	108	93	5	—

(2) CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness	4	4	—	—	nil
Sanitary Conveniences :					
(a) insufficient	3	3	—	—	nil
(b) unsuitable or defective ...	6	6	—	4	nil
(c) not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	nil
Inadequately lighted	5	5	—	1	nil
Other offences (not including offences relating to Homework)	1	1	—	—	nil

(3) OUTWORK—SECTIONS 110 AND 111.

		SECTION 110			SECTION 111		
<i>Nature of Work</i>		<i>No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (i) (c)</i>	<i>No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council</i>	<i>No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists</i>	<i>No. of instances of work in un-wholesome premises</i>	<i>Notices Served</i>	<i>Prosecutions</i>
Wearing apparel	Making, etc. Cleaning & washing	38	—	—	—	—	—
The making of boxes or other receptacles or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper		3	—	—	—	—	—

6. Shops and Offices.*(a) Sanitary Conditions.*

Although only sixteen visits are specially recorded in this connection reference to the schedule will show that a considerable number of visits have been made in connection with other matters during which sanitary conditions have been noted. During the year some improvement in sanitary accommodation and the provision of hot water supplies was effected.

(b) Early Closing and Employment of Young Persons.

Very little trouble was experienced in connection with this matter. No complaint as to the working of excessive hours or late closing was received. In most cases shops are closed by mutual Trade arrangements long before the statutory times.

7. Camping Sites.

Although the Corporation has agreed to the principle of the provision of a suitable site for caravans nothing further has been done to provide it. At present there are no licensed sites in the Borough.

There are a few caravans sited in the Borough but in most cases these are within the curtilage of dwellings but never exceed ten at any time.

Very little trouble is experienced from gypsies and hawkers.

8. Smoke Abatement.

Although the kind of industry in the Borough is such that little nuisance arises from smoke there is a marked tendency for nuisances due to emission of fumes and noise from plant in the smaller indus-

trial undertakings to increase and vigilance is necessary to ensure that this does not become widespread.

The few complaints relating to smoke arise more particularly from Laundry chimneys.

9. Swimming Pools.

Twenty-six samples were taken and submitted for examination. Of these eleven were from the Public Pool at California Hill, nine from the Social Club Swimming Pool at A.C. Sphinx Spark Plug Works and six from the pool at the Dunstable Grammar School.

The results were not always as good as they might have been due in the main to lack of proper chlorination.

10. Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Only a single case was dealt with during the year. The infestation was so bad that it was necessary to burn almost the whole of the furniture, bedding, etc.

Particulars of the action taken for the eradication of bed bugs is set out below :—

					1951
(a) Number of Council Houses	(1)	Infested	...	...	nil
	(2)	Disinfested	...	...	nil
(b) Number of other Houses	(1)	Infested	...	...	1
	(2)	Disinfested	...	...	1

11. Rodent Control.

The duties continue to be done in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries so as to qualify for grant and where possible use is made of the powers given under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, to require owners and occupiers to take suitable measures. The common brown rat and house mouse remain the only subjects of rodent control.

Surface Infestations.

161 properties, comprising dwelling houses, agricultural, business and industrial premises and Local Authority properties were inspected during the year. 62 were found to be infested and of these 37 were treated, the remainder being dealt with by way of treatment or works of proofing by occupiers or owners after informal action under the Statutory powers. 342 visits were made during inspections and treatments.

Sewers.

The annual test bait of 10% of all sewer manholes showed a small degree of infestation, mostly in the area comprising Union Street, Princes Street, Victoria Street and Edward Street. Twenty-nine manholes were selected and given a poison treatment.

SECTION D. :—

HOUSING.

(a) Unfit Properties and Repairs.

No steps have yet been taken to commence the procedure necessary for the clearance of the unfit houses in the Borough. The demolition of many of these houses is long overdue and the fact that they have been allowed to stand without repair for so many years is the cause of much discomfort and hardship to those who have to reside in them.

It is hoped that the Housing Committee may shortly be able to allocate at any rate a small percentage of the new houses being erected for re-housing families in unfit properties so that some of them can be dealt with.

The decision of the Council to gradually rehouse the families in occupation of the twenty ex-army huts in First Avenue is now being put into effect after which the premises are not being re-let.

Although there has been some relaxation in regard to licences for carrying out repairs to properties little advantage has been taken of it except by owner-occupiers.

A careful analysis of the rent paid in the older houses where major repairs are now needed in relation to the cost of such repairs forces me to conclude that very little will be done on a very extensive scale until there is some revision in the Rent Acts.

Provision under the Housing Acts, where in default of the owner carrying out the works, it falls to the Local Authority to do so and recover the cost is almost incapable of operation on any large scale due to inability to recover in anything like a reasonable period.

As a result of this position the older property, not ripe for clearance or demolition, but which could be saved by reconditioning and improvements are gradually getting beyond repair.

Reference to the schedule of work done will show that quite a fair amount of housing repair work was carried out but this was more in the nature of "make do and mend" than serious housing improvement.

(b) New Housing.

Up to the end of July, 1952, the following accommodation had been made available since the war as a result of new erections, adaptations, etc. :—

- 50 pre-fabricated bungalows at Downside Estate, Dunstable.
- 470 permanent houses in the Beecroft Estate, Dunstable.
- 20 ex-army huts at First Avenue, Dunstable, which are now being vacated and not re-let for housing purposes.
- 12 ex-army hutments at Park Estate, Dunstable.
- 20 flats or houses in requisitioned and Corporation premises.

Contracts had been placed for a further 131 houses of which 103 were under construction.

Private licences to erect houses had been issued to 180 persons. Of this number 146 were completed and occupied and 32 had been commenced.

In addition to the above the Corporation own four houses in Chapel Walk, fifteen houses in Manchester Place and five houses in High Street North which are all unfit for habitation.

These properties will be demolished at the earliest moment when rehousing is possible.

(c) *Overcrowding and Re-housing.*

Although there is still a large amount of overcrowding in the Borough the position has eased to the extent that there are not nearly so many of the really acute cases.

The main trouble now arises from houses being overcrowded on a bedroom standard rather than the Housing Act Standard due in the main to occupation by more than a single family.

The Corporation operates a Points Scheme in the letting of houses and the allocation of points for health and overcrowding factors is very reasonable.

The number of applicants on the waiting list at the end of August, 1952, was 683.

SECTION E. :—

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

1. Milk Supply.

(a) *Registration.*

The state of the registers at the end of the year was as follows :—

Distributors of Milk	...	...	45
Dairies	...	...	10

Dealers' Licences authorising use of Special Designation :—

(i.) " Sterilised "	...	25
(ii.) " Pasteurised "	...	8
(iii.) " Tuberculin Tested "	...	9
(iv.) " Accredited "	...	1

Supplementary Licences authorising use of Special Designation :—

(i.) " Pasteurised "	...	4
(ii.) " Tuberculin Tested "	...	2

(b) *Inspections.*

Sixty-six visits were made to premises in which milk was sold or stored. One unsatisfactory dairy was re-built.

(c) **Sampling.**

Forty-six samples were submitted for examination. The results which are set out in the table opposite can be regarded as reasonably satisfactory even though in a few cases the result of the Methylene Blue test in the ungraded samples falls below the standard provided for Graded Milk.

No evidence of tuberculosis was discovered in thirteen samples examined. One sample revealed evidence of brucella abortus and the information was passed to the Animal Health Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

No. of Sample	RESULT OF METHYLENE BLUE TEST			Result of Phosphatase Test	RESULT OF CLINICAL EXAMINATION	
	Grade	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory period to de-colourise		Tuberculosis	Br. Abortus
1	Pasteurised	Yes	—	Satisfactory	—	—
2	T.T. "	Yes	—	"	—	—
3	Pasteurised	Yes	—	"	—	—
4	Ungraded	Yes	—	—	—	—
5	"	Yes	—	—	—	—
6	"	Yes	—	—	—	—
7	"	Yes	—	—	—	—
8	"	Yes	—	—	—	—
9	"	No	2½ hours	—	—	—
10	"	No	3½ hours	—	—	—
11	"	Yes	—	—	—	—
12	Pasteurised	Yes	—	Satisfactory	—	—
13	Accredited	Yes	—	—	—	—
14	Ungraded	Yes	—	—	—	—
15	"	Yes	—	—	—	—
16	Pasteurised	Yes	—	Satisfactory	—	—
17	"	Yes	—	"	—	—
18	Not known	Not known	—	—	No evidence	No evidence
19	"	"	—	—	"	"
20	Ungraded	"	—	—	"	"
21	"	Yes	—	—	"	"
22	"	—	—	—	"	—
23	"	No	4 hours	—	—	—
24	"	No	4 hours	—	—	—
25	"	Yes	—	—	—	—
26	"	Yes	—	—	—	—
27	"	Yes	—	—	—	—
28	Pasteurised	Yes	—	Satisfactory	—	—
29	"	Yes	—	—	—	—
30	"	Yes	—	"	—	—
31	"	Yes	—	"	—	—
32	"	No	½ hour	"	—	—
33	"	No	½ hour	"	—	—
34	"	No	½ hour	"	—	—
35	"	No	4½ hours	—	—	—
36	"	No	2½ hours	—	—	—
37	Ungraded	No	2½ hours	—	—	—
38	"	No	1½ hours	—	No evidence	No evidence
39	"	—	—	—	"	"
40	"	—	—	—	"	"
41	"	—	—	—	"	"
42	"	—	—	—	"	"
43	"	—	—	—	"	"
44	"	—	—	—	"	"
45	"	—	—	—	"	"
46	"	—	—	—	"	"

(d) *Ice-Cream Samples.*

In dealing with the results of the examinations of samples of ice-cream the suggested standard is that 50% of the samples from each individual manufacturer or retailer should fall into Grade I., 80% into Grade II., not more than 20% into Grade III. and none into Grade IV.

Of the fifty-six samples submitted, 18 were placed in Grade I. ; 20 in Grade II. ; 11 in Grade III. ; 7 in Grade IV.

There is an improvement in the grading compared with 1950 and while the standard should be such that bacillus coli should be absent only seven of the samples were so affected.

Reference to the table will show that three out of six samples from one retailer were unsatisfactory and as the ice-cream was wrapped and received from outside the area, representations were made to the wholesaler.

Identity and No. of Sample	Presumptive Coli	Faecal Coli	Methylene Blue decolourised in hours	Prov. Grading	Remarks
A.1	—	—	3	2	Wrapped
A.2	—	—	over 4½	1	Wrapped
B.1	—	—	4	2	Complete cold mix
B.2	—	—	over 4½	1	Complete cold mix
B.3	—	—	4	2	Complete cold mix
C.1	—	—	4	2	Complete cold mix
C.2	—	—	over 4½	1	Complete cold mix
C.3	present	present	0	4	Complete cold mix
D.1	—	—	4	2	Complete cold mix
D.2	—	—	4	2	Complete cold mix
D.3	—	—	4	2	Complete cold mix
E.1	—	—	2½	2	Wrapped block
E.2	—	—	over 4½	1	Wrapped block
F.1	—	—	4	2	Complete cold mix
F.2	present	—	0	4	Complete cold mix
G.1	—	—	3	2	Complete cold mix
G.2	—	—	2½	2	Complete cold mix
H.1	—	—	1½	3	Wrapped
H.2	—	—	0	4	Wrapped
H.3	—	—	over 4½	1	Wrapped
I.1	—	—	0	4	Bulk
I.2	—	—	over 4½	1	Bulk
I.3	—	—	over 4½	1	Bulk
I.4	—	—	1½	3	Bulk
I.5	—	—	over 4½	1	Wrapped
I.6	—	—	over 4½	1	Wrapped
I.7	—	—	4	2	Wrapped
I.8	—	—	1½	3	Wrapped
J.1	—	—	0	4	Wrapped
J.2	—	—	1½	3	Wrapped
J.3	—	—	0	4	Bulk
K.1	—	—	3	2	Wrapped
K.2	—	—	3	2	Wrapped
L.1	—	—	2½	2	Wrapped
M.1	—	—	over 4½	1	Wrapped
N.1	—	—	4	2	Wrapped
O.1	—	—	over 4½	1	Wrapped
P.1	—	—	over 4½	1	Wrapped
Q.1	—	—	over 4½	1	Wrapped block
R.1	—	—	4	2	Wrapped
S.1	—	—	over 4½	1	Wrapped block
S.2	—	—	4	2	Wrapped block
S.3	—	—	4	2	Wrapped
T.1	present	—	0	4	Wrapped
T.2	—	—	over 4½	1	Wrapped
U.1	present	present	2	3	Wrapped
U.2	present	present	2	3	Wrapped
U.3	present	present	2	3	Wrapped
U.4	—	—	1	3	Wrapped
U.5	—	—	4	2	Wrapped
U.6	—	—	½	3	Wrapped
V.1	present	present	2	3	Complete cold mix
W.1	—	—	over 4½	1	Wrapped
W.2	—	—	over 4½	1	Wrapped
X.1	—	—	over 4½	1	Wrapped
Y.1	—	—	4	2	Wrapped

(e) *Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947/1948.*

During 1951 there were six small retailers manufacturing ice-cream in contravention of the Regulations in that there were no satisfactory temperature recording facilities.

At the present time all manufacturers in the Borough are using a "complete cold mix" which conforms to the Regulations.

2. Meat and Other Foods.

(a) *Slaughterhouses.*

The only slaughterhouse in the Borough is of modern construction and contains reasonably good facilities. Considerable improvement was effected to the lairages by the replacing of unsatisfactory wooden and galvanised sheet partitions and sides with brickwork.

An electric hoist and saw for dealing with the carcasses has also been installed.

The following table shows the number of carcasses slaughtered all of which were inspected and the percentage either wholly condemned or some part of which was condemned :—

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	<i>Cattle ex- cluding Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Number killed and inspected	1,654	289	369	1,720	607
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	2	—	4	7
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	584	105	1	40	33
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	35.31	37.02	.27	2.56	6.59
<i>Tuberculosis only.</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	4	5	1	—	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	135	91	—	—	22
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	8.4	33.22	.27	—	3.79

Tuberculosis in Calves.

One case was discovered and the circumstances were reported to the Animal Health Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Cysticercus Bovis.

No cases were discovered.

Table showing monthly totals of animals slaughtered and inspected :—

<i>Month</i>	<i>Cattle ex- cluding Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Total</i>
1951						
January ...	58	33	20	40	7	158
February ...	29	37	11	23	107	207
March ...	35	20	7	3	69	134
April ...	85	27	7	41	94	254
May ...	112	14	6	111	101	344
June ...	66	17	—	196	87	366
July ...	122	25	9	204	10	370
August ...	194	24	17	277	4	516
September ...	250	23	96	245	23	637
October ...	275	30	101	242	28	676
November ...	279	27	73	130	30	539
December ...	149	12	22	208	47	438
TOTALS ...	1,654	289	369	1,720	607	4,639

Table showing monthly and yearly totals of meat from various animals condemned as unfit for human consumption at the Crown-controlled Slaughterhouse :—

<i>Month</i>	<i>Bovine</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Total lbs.</i>
1951					
January ...	3,330	—	4	52	3,386
February ...	1,492	—	8	604	2,104
March ...	502	—	—	216	718
April ...	1,810	—	—	30	1,840
May ...	1,761	—	9	34	1,804
June ...	1,668	—	54	93	1,815
July ...	3,095	37	9	490	3,631
August ...	4,024	—	6	249	4,279
September ...	3,849	—	58	95	4,002
October ...	3,366	—	46	24	3,436
November ...	5,787	—	141	24	5,952
December ...	1,546	—	34	200	1,780
TOTALS ...	32,230	37	369	2,111	34,747

This represents 15 tons 10 cwts. 0 qrs. 27 lbs. of meat and offal.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

The number of licences to act as slaughtermen in force at the end of the year was eight, of these five operate in the Borough.

(b) Meat and Food other than in Slaughterhouse.

The number of visits paid to premises where food is prepared, stored or offered for sale was 764.

The table hereunder shows the amount and variety of foodstuffs voluntarily surrendered by the owners and destroyed or utilised for animal feeding stuffs as being unfit for human consumption :—

<i>Article</i>	<i>Tins or Packets</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Meat, cooked	115	452
Meat, fresh	—	108
Fruit	171	30
Vegetables	224	—
Fish	34	468
Jam	13	—
Milk	51	—
Coffee	3	—
Chocolate and sweets	—	14
Chickens	3	—
Meat pies	159	—
Sausages	—	36
Bacon	—	29
Cheese... ..	—	13
Cake	—	24
Sauces, etc.	13	—
Coconuts	4,190	—
Puddings and mincemeat	3	—
Tea	—	12

(c) Prosecutions.

Proceedings were instituted before the Justices in one case in respect of the sale of unsound meat pies in contravention of Section 9 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Three persons were fined £5 each and a fourth defendant was discharged.

(d) Food Premises Generally.

Activity in connection with the inspection of places such as market stalls, vehicles, restaurants, hotel kitchens and snack bars in addition to those normally paid to shops and the slaughterhouse, was considerably increased during the year under review and as a

result of these visits I am of opinion that there is a steady tendency towards improvement in the standard of food handling although there is much to be done before any real degree of satisfaction can be expressed either in regard to habits of persons or conditions in premises.

Improvements are steadily being made in shops and in restaurant and hotel kitchens.

(e) *Byelaws—Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food.*

The Model Byelaws have been adopted by the Corporation.

The new powers have been found useful in several instances although it has not been found necessary to institute proceedings before the Justices.

(f) *Registration.* Section 14—Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

At the end of the year premises were registered as follows :—

Manufacture of fried fish and chipped potatoes	8
Manufacture of sausages	17
Manufacture of cooked meat	9
Manufacture of meat pies	3
Sale and manufacture of ice-cream	11
Sale of ice-cream	55

(g) *Adulteration of Food.*

No samples were submitted for examination. The adulteration provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, are administered by the Bedfordshire County Council.

(h) *Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.*

No samples were submitted.

(i) *Food Poisoning.*

One small outbreak occurred in July. A mother and two children out of a family of four persons visited a children's party in a private house outside the Borough.

One child sickened within thirty-six hours of partaking a meal in which trifle was involved and the mother and child a few hours later. There was also evidence of sickness amongst other children from outside the area who attended the party. The Authority concerned was notified of the circumstances.

Salmonella typhimurium was isolated from the specimens submitted to the Laboratory from all three cases.

Rainfall.

The following figures of rainfall in the Borough over the last ten years are included in the Report for record purposes :—

					<i>inches</i>
1942	...	...	...	...	21.34
1943	...	...	...	...	19.37
1944	...	...	...	...	20.68
1945	...	...	...	...	21.24
1946	...	...	...	...	27.99
1947	...	...	...	...	20.21
1948	...	...	...	...	25.60
1949	...	...	...	...	21.47
1950	...	...	...	...	30.63
1951	...	...	...	...	31.99

